

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. New claim 38 is a method of use claim that tracks claim 37. Editorial revisions have been made in the claims.

Claim 22 was rejected for lack of enablement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The rejection contends that the "claim" is silent as to the structure, etc. as to enable one skilled in the art to make the invention. However, enablement is the function of the specification, not the claims. The teachings of the present specification are more than adequate for one of ordinary skill to practice the present invention. In any event, claim 22 has been revised to include some structural aspects of the invention.

Claims 3, 6-21, 23-26, 30 and 37 were rejected as indefinite. The rejection suggests that the Markush language used in claims 26 and 37 should use "and" instead of "or". Applicants submit that "or" should be considered acceptable. However, the requested revision has been made as a formality in order to advance prosecution. The recited Markush group members still are being recited as individual alternatives, with only one element of one of the Markush group members being needed to satisfy the claim.

Claims 3, 6-21, 26, 30 and 37 have been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Toyosawa. Claims 23-25 have been rejected as obvious over this reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claim 37 is directed to an eraser. Erasers are used for removing information such as written, printed or drawn material from a substrate such as a paper page or drawing sheet. Toyosawa does not mention an eraser or any article like an eraser as one of the final products for which the material disclosed therein can be used. Nor do the uses listed by Toyosawa require properties similar to the properties that make the present eraser particularly desirable, e.g. the frangible skeleton that can become part of the eraser scrap as the eraser is used. The term "eraser" in the preamble of claim 37 breathes life into the claim, defines the nature of the article being claimed and has clear implications in terms of suitable shapes and actual and relative dimensions. As such, the term "eraser" cannot be dismissed as mere intended use and Toyosawa's failure to disclose or suggest such articles renders claim 37 allowable over this reference. Applicants are not conceding that the material disclosed by Toyosawa in fact meets the other requirements of claim 37.

Claims 7, 12-21, 26, 30 and 37 have been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Shimizu. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Like Toyosawa, Shimizu does not

disclose or suggest an eraser, and therefore this rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons. Again, Applicants are not conceding that the material disclosed by Shimizu in fact meets the other requirements of claim 37.

Claims 3, 7, 11-21, 23, 26, 30 and 37 have been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Giez. Claims 10, 24 and 25 have been rejected as obvious over Giez. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Like Toyosawa and Shimizu, Giez does not disclose or suggest an eraser, and therefore this rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons. Again, Applicants are not conceding that the material disclosed by Giez in fact meets the other requirements of claim 37.

Claims 3, 6, 7, 11-21, 26, 30 and 37 have been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Imashiro. Claims 6, 24 and 25 have been rejected as obvious over Imashiro. Applicants note that claim 6 was recited in both rejections. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Like Toyosawa, Shimizu and Giez, Imashiro does not disclose or suggest an eraser, and therefore this rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons. Again, Applicants are not conceding that the material disclosed by Imashiro in fact meets the other requirements of claim 37.

Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected as obvious over Imashiro in view of Toyosawa. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Toyosawa suffers from the same deficiencies as Imashiro and therefore this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 22 has been rejected as anticipated by or obvious over "Noboru"(JP 8-258493). Claim 22 requires a skeleton made of an organic polymer, which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the reference. The rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding that the reference in fact teaches the other features of claim 22.

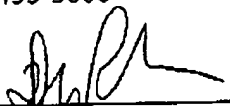
Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.



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